

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Quarterly*

VOLUME 42 No. 4

2012

**Faces of the Past IV:  
A Calendar**



RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Julia Caroline Ripley Dorr, 1825-1913**

Poet, novelist, travel writer – Julia Dorr was a nationally known literary figure and left a deep imprint on Rutland's cultural life.

Married in 1847 to Seneca M. Dorr, she began her literary efforts while the couple resided in Ghent, New York. But it was after the pair returned to Rutland in 1857 that she began her years of greatest productivity. Such literary notables as Emerson, Longfellow, and Whittier admired her poetry and counted her as a friend.

In 1880 Julia became president of The Fortnightly, the intellectual and literary society of the women of the Grace Congregational Church, a position she would occupy for the next 30 years.

One of her greatest achievements was her role in spearheading the founding of the Rutland Free Library during the years 1886-1889.

# About the Compiler

Jacob Sherman recently retired as the Reference and Technical Services Librarian after 38 years at the Rutland Free Library. He also has served as Secretary of the Rutland Historical Society and is Chairperson of its Publications Committee.

He has made numerous contributions to the Society's Quarters: "When the 'Babe' Came to Rutland – October 1919", Rutland Historical Society Quarterly (Vol. 30 No. 3); "Lost Buildings of Old Rutland: A Calendar", Rutland Historical Society Quarterly (Vol. 33 No. 4); "Lost Buildings of Old Rutland Revisited: A Calendar", Rutland Historical Society Quarterly (Vol. 34 No. 4); "Then and Now: A Calendar", Rutland Historical Society Quarterly (Vol. 35 No. 4); "'People Make a Library' The Rutland Free Library at 120 Years", Rutland Historical Society Quarterly (Vol. 36 No. 3); "Lost Structures of Old Rutland: A Calendar", Rutland Historical Society Quarterly (Vol. 36 No. 4); "The Flood of 1927 In Rutland; A Calendar", Rutland Historical Society Quarterly (Vol. 37 No. 4); "The Art of Dr. Emelie Perkins: A Calendar" Rutland Historical Society Quarterly (Vol. 38 No. 4); "Faces of the Past: A Calendar", Rutland Historical Society Quarterly (Vol. 39 No. 4); "Faces of the Past II: A Calendar", Rutland Historical Society Quarterly (Vol. 40 No. 4) and "Faces of the Past III: A Calendar", Rutland Historical Society Quarterly (Vol. 41 No. 4).

## Introduction

There are periods of intense growth in the life of a city. For Rutland that era came between 1850 and 1920 when the railroads boomed and the local marble industry became the leading supplier to the nation.

The individuals profiled in our 2013 calendar for the most part lived through these tumultuous decades, contributing in various ways, some more dramatically than others, to a time when Rutland sent its sons off to the Civil War, the physical face of the city was changing rapidly, and its clout in Montpelier was undisputed.

The *Quarterly* is published by the Rutland Historical Society, 96 Center Street, Rutland VT 05701-4023. Co-editors: Jim Davidson and Jacob Sherman. Copies are \$2 each plus \$1 per order. Membership in the Society includes a subscription to the *Quarterly* and the *Newsletter*. Copyright © 2012 The Rutland Historical Society, Inc. ISSN 0748-2493.

# **Faces of the Past IV:**

## **A Calendar**

Compiled by Jacob Sherman

### **Prominent Families of 19th Century Rutland**

The persons selected for our 2013 calendar remind us of the importance that prominent families played in the growth of 19th century Rutland. Perhaps none were more important to the transformation of the village into a booming marble and railroad center than the Ripleys, the Clements, and the Proctors.

A much overlooked book that should be enjoyed by anyone with an interest in Rutland history is *With Pen and Sword: Lives and Times of the Remarkable Rutland Ripleys*. Our history would be so much the poorer without the literary and cultural contributions of Julia Caroline Ripley Dorr as well as those of her colorful half-brothers, high ranking Union officers, Lieutenant Colonel William Y.W. Ripley and General Edward Hastings Ripley.

The Clements were another family that left an indelible mark on both Rutland and the state. Charles Clement was an early pioneer in the marble industry and a leading citizen. One of his sons, Percival, expanded his father's interest in the Rutland Railroad, became publisher of the Rutland Herald, and ran for governor four times, finally winning a term in 1918.

The Proctor dynasty was begun by Redfield who created and skillfully led the Vermont Marble Company in controlling local and state affairs for several decades.

Other selectees – Benjamin Dunklee, Horace H. Dyer, and Mary Reynolds Page, reflect the commercial, agricultural, and spiritual growth of the area, and sadly in the case of fallen heroes George T. Roberts and Charles B. Mead, its contribution to the Civil War effort.



### Jesse Gove, 1783-1842

The son of widely-known Rutland tavern keeper Nathaniel Gove, Jesse was born in Bennington the year before the Gove family moved to Rutland.

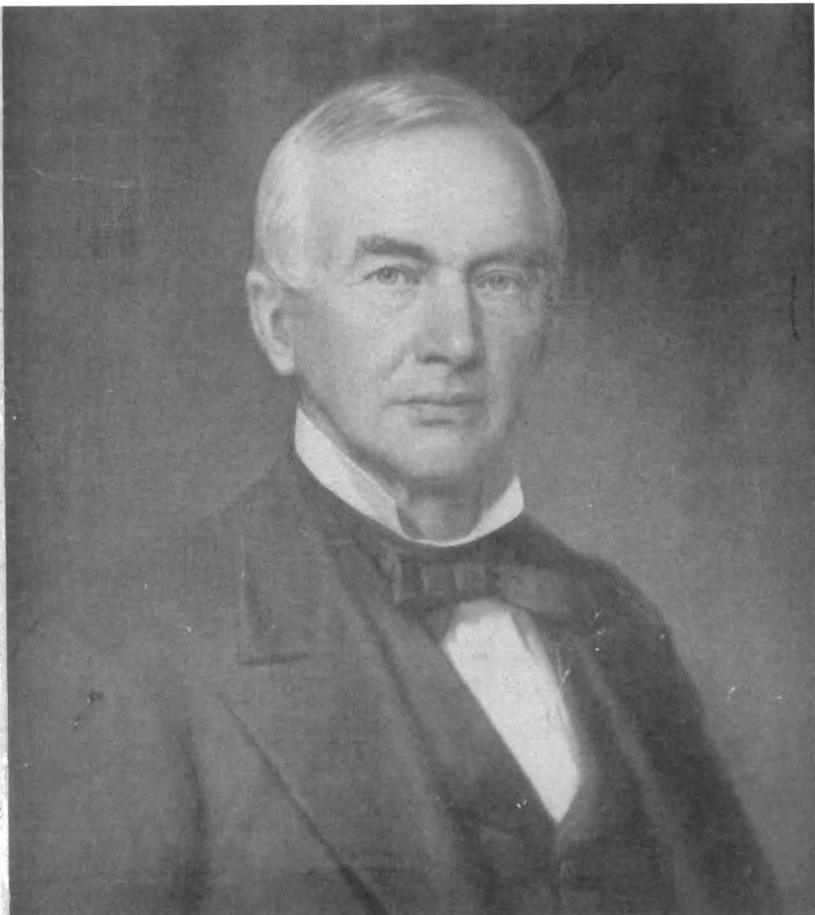
He was educated at Samuel Walker's school for young men in Rutland and went on to Middlebury College from which he graduated in 1805. In 1809 he was appointed clerk of the United States District and Circuit Courts for Vermont and continued in this post until his death. After reading law with Cephas Smith Jr., he was admitted to the bar in 1818.

As a businessman, Jesse built a store in 1815 on the site of the old Gove tavern which was on the east side of South Main Street, just north of the courthouse. He leased out space in this establishment.

He was an early member of Trinity Episcopal Church. In February 1832 he was among those appointed to draft articles and by-laws for the congregation. In the final year of his life he served as postmaster of Rutland.

# JANUARY 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day					
27	28	29	30	31		



### Charles Clement, 1807-1893

Born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, Charles came to the area as a young man. In 1831 he married Elizabeth Wood of Sherburne. After several years in Illinois, the couple moved back to Rutland where he entered the mercantile business.

In 1851 he formed the firm of Clement and Son which eventually included two of his sons, Wallace and Percy. The company ultimately became part of the Rutland Marble Company which later became the Vermont Marble Company.

In 1863, Charles built Clementwood, the family mansion on Clement Road, which today houses administrative offices of the College of St. Joseph. His mill was located in nearby Center Rutland close to the falls of the Otter Creek.

He became a part owner of the Rutland Railroad in 1882 and founded the Clement Bank in 1883. Clement was a rival of Redfield Proctor and opposed the latter's plan to divide the original town of Rutland into four municipal entities.

# FEBRUARY 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Lincoln's Birthday	Ash Wednesday	Valentine's Day		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	President's Day					
24	25	26	27	28		



### James Davie Butler, 1815-1905

Clergyman, professor, lecturer, and world traveler, James Davie Butler migrated from Rutland to Wisconsin but never forgot his hometown.

Among his many writings was the 1838 *Rutlandia* which consisted of two notebooks containing historical observations on the origin of the village's early houses.

Butler graduated from Middlebury College in 1836 and Andover Theological Seminary in 1840. In 1842-1843 he toured Europe, acting as correspondent for the *New York Observer* and later lecturing widely on his experiences.

After serving as minister to Congregational churches in Massachusetts and Vermont, he took a pastorate in Cincinnati, and in 1854 became a professor of Greek at Wabash College in Indiana. In 1858 he assumed a similar position at the University of Wisconsin which he held for nine years.

In October of 1870 he accepted an invitation to return to Rutland to deliver an historical address at the city's centenary.

# MARCH 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Savings Begins						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day						
24 Palm Sunday	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Easter		Passover			Good Friday	



### **Horace Hoxie Dyer, 1820-1905**

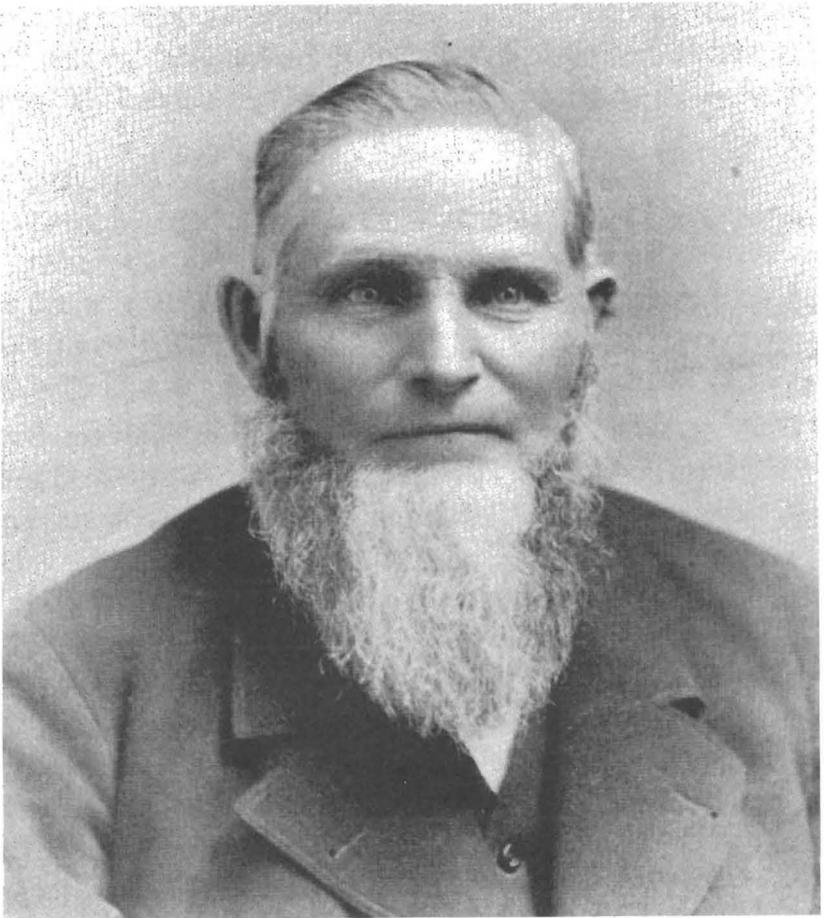
Horace's father Edward ultimately acquired 800 acres of land two miles south of the city beginning with an initial purchase in 1794. It was here that Horace lived his long life, with the exception of six years of schooling in Brandon and four months of teaching in Fair Haven.

He was regarded as one of the area's most prosperous farmers and devoted considerable time to public service. Republican in his politics, he was a Rutland selectman for a year and in 1878, without seeking the office, was elected to the Vermont Senate.

He also served as vice-president of the Killington National Bank, of which he was one of the organizers, and as a trustee and vice-president of the Rutland Trust Company. He was president of the Rutland County Agricultural Society for three years and from age 18 on served in the state militia. For a number of years he served as Captain of the Rutland militia company.

# APRIL 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



### **Benjamin Franklin Dunklee, 1823-1903**

Born in Rutland, Benjamin was the son of Thaddeus and Elizabeth Dunklee who in 1832 purchased some land north of the village. The land included a small pond which continues to be known as Dunklee's Pond.

Obtaining only a limited public education, Benjamin worked in his father's hay fields and later on the railroad. In 1856, his father urged him to enter the ice business and as an added inducement built an ice house near the pond. Benjamin successfully pursued this business for the next thirty-six years.

In 1872 he purchased a sixty-acre farm on which he raised grain and hay to feed the eight horses he used in his business. During his later years he would net three to four thousand dollars annually.

Benjamin was a staunch Republican and active in town politics. He served as highway commissioner, assessor, and selectman. He was married three times, the third when he was 63 years of age.

# MAY 2013

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Mother's Day							Armed Force's Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		
	Memorial Day						



### Col. George T. Roberts, 1824-1862

George T. Roberts was a Civil War hero for whom the Rutland post of the Grand Army of the Republic was subsequently named. He was born in Clarendon, Vermont, into a family with strong military traditions. Both of his grandfathers had served in the Revolution, one as a general, the other as a surgeon in the Continental Army.

Spending most of his youth in Manchester, he was educated at Burr Seminary there. Later he superintended construction of a railroad in the West and was general agent and manager of marble quarries in West Rutland, principally owned by his brother-in-law, Horace H. Baxter.

He entered the Civil War as a lieutenant in the Rutland Light Guards. Later, in February 1862, he accepted a colonelcy in the newly-formed Seventh Vermont Regiment. He was mortally wounded leading his troops at the Battle of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on 5 August 1862.

The Rutland Herald wrote: "So long as heroism is admired and patriotism loved, will green garlands of affectionate remembrance be laid upon his honored grave."

# JUNE 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
					Flag Day	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Father's Day						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



### Mary Reynolds Page, 1828-1872

Mary was born in Cavendish, Vermont. She lost her father, a minister, when she was a year and half old. Just over ten years later her mother died and she went to live with the family of an uncle in Boston.

On 14 June 1848, at the age of twenty, she was married in Boston to John B. Page of Rutland who would become Governor of Vermont. The couple returned to Rutland where they spent the next twenty-three years. Despite chronic illness, Mary ran a well-ordered household, raised children and was active in the life of the Congregational Church. She was appointed vice president for Vermont of the church's New England Woman's Board of Missions.

In 1871, in hopes of regaining her strength, she undertook travels in Europe which she chronicled in a journal that became the basis of her published memoirs. The trip appeared to be helping her but in May 1872, while in Nice, France, she weakened and died. Her husband had sailed from New York but was too late to reach her before she died. She was buried in Evergreen Cemetery the following September.

# JULY 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



### **Redfield Proctor, 1831-1908**

Born in Proctorsville, he graduated from Dartmouth College in 1852 and Albany Law School in 1859. Enlisting as a lieutenant when the Civil War broke out, he had risen to the rank of colonel by October, 1862.

Returning to Vermont, he entered into law partnership with W.C. Veazey and in 1869 became manager of the Sutherland Falls Marble Company which prospered under his leadership. When the Vermont Marble Company was formed in 1880, out of a merger of the Sutherland Falls and Rutland Marble companies, he became its president. Within a few years this concern controlled the majority of the marble business nationwide.

After terms in the state legislature and state senate, Proctor was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1876 and Governor in 1878. In 1889 President Benjamin Harrison appointed him Secretary of War, a post he held until 1891. The following year he was elected to the U.S. Senate where he served until his death.

# AUGUST 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



### **William Y. W. Ripley, 1832-1905**

Civil War hero, civic leader, outdoorsman – all of these describe William Young Warren Ripley. He passed up college to enter his father's marble business which he quickly mastered.

He early became a crack shot. It was said that one of his favorite tricks was to toss two potatoes in the air and put a single bullet through both. He helped organize a local militia unit, the Rutland Light Guards, prior to the Civil War. When the war came he recruited the entire company, except for one, to the Northern cause.

His active service ended on 1 July 1862 when as a Lieutenant Colonel in a company of Sharpshooters, he was severely wounded in the leg at the Battle of Malvern Hill, Virginia. Left for dead, he was rescued from the battlefield the following morning. Many years later he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Returning to Rutland, he reentered the family business which was eventually purchased by the Vermont Marble Company. Over the years he served as president of the Rutland County National Bank and a term as Mayor of Rutland.

# SEPTEMBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5 Rosh Hashanah	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Yom Kippur
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



## **Edward Hastings Ripley, 1839-1915**

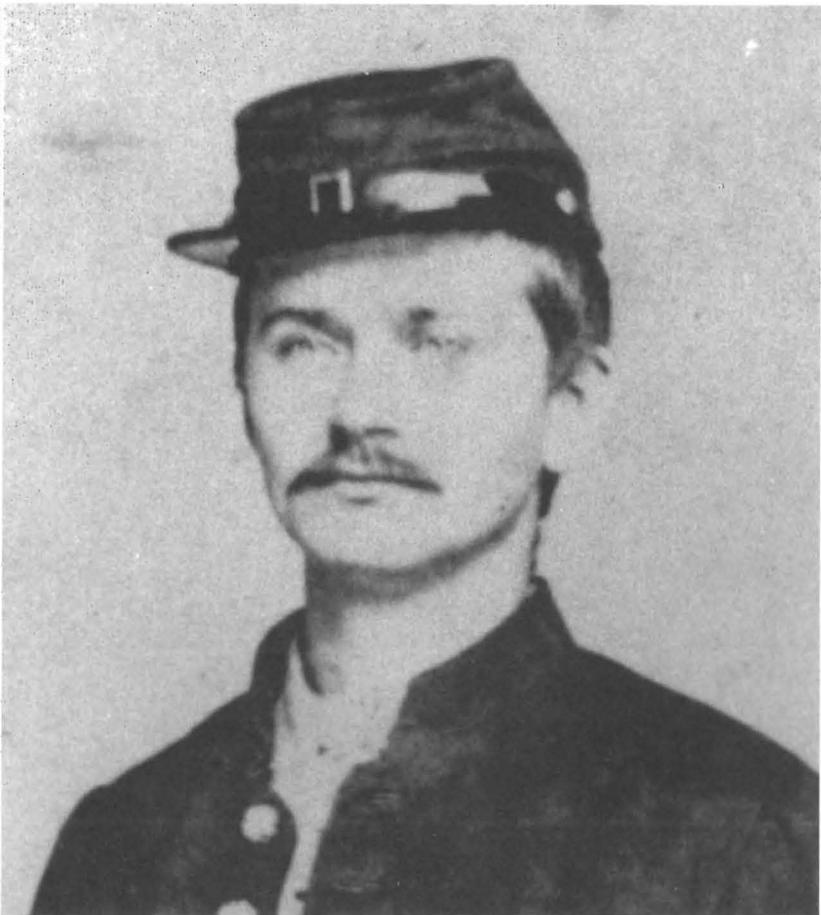
Edward was a junior at Union College in Schenectady, New York, when the Civil War broke out. When the call for additional troops went out in May 1862, he enlisted in the Ninth Vermont Infantry and thus began an illustrious military career which saw him rise to the rank of general. His wartime experiences were chronicled in hundreds of letters, mostly to family members back in Center Rutland.

Perhaps the high point of his life was leading his brigade into Richmond following the Confederate surrender in April 1865. Charged with maintaining order, putting out fires and saving the city, the young general won praise from both sides for his actions.

Returning to civilian life, he joined with his brother in the marble industry until the family firm was merged into the Vermont Marble Company. He was a founder and director of the Rutland Marble Savings Bank and served in the Vermont legislature as a representative from Mendon.

# OCTOBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Columbus Day					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
				Halloween		



### Charles B. Mead, 1843-1864

Charles Boardman Mead had volunteered for service in Company F of the First U.S. Sharp-shooters. When he was killed at Petersburg, Virginia, on 17 June 1864, his colonel, William Y. W. Ripley, described the fallen 21-year-old as "a young man of rare promise."

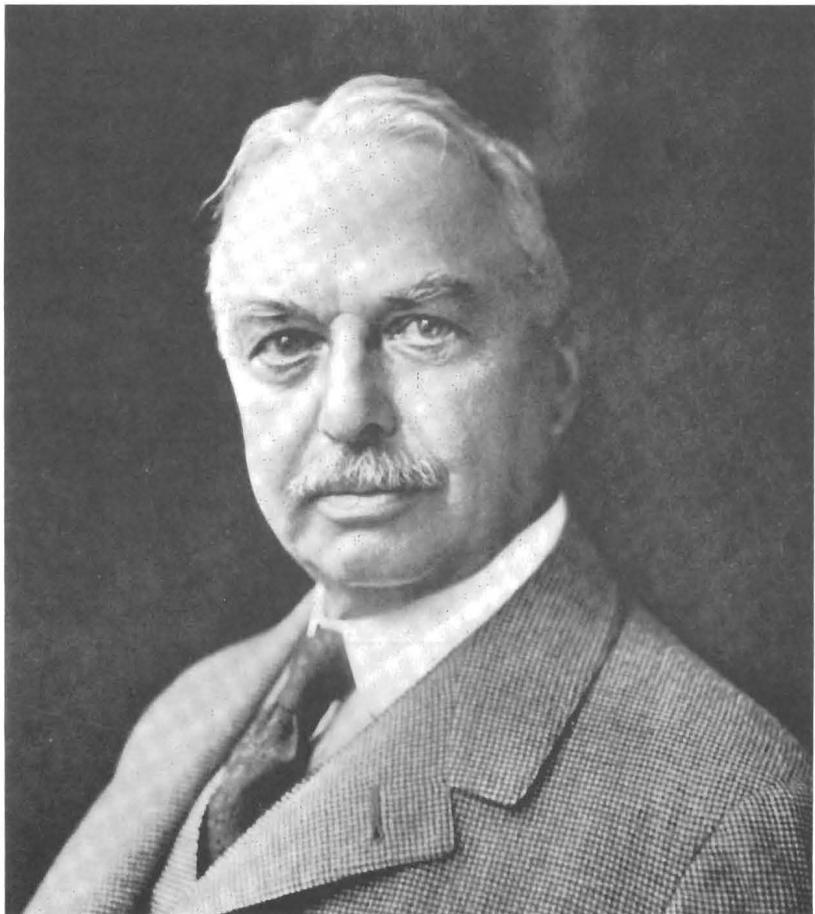
Mead, who was a great-great-grandson of Colonel James Mead, Rutland's first settler, was born in Fair Haven and attended school in West Rutland.

He went off to war on 22 September 1862 and the following year was wounded at Gettysburg. After recuperating at Brattleboro, he returned to Virginia where he fought in the battles of Kelly's Ford, Locust Grove, and Mine Run. These experiences he recorded in his war diaries which cover the period 13 October to 20 December 1863.

On 13 May 1864 following the Battle of the Wilderness and just a month before his death he wrote the following line: "God's mercy alone has given a safe direction to the stream of lead and iron I have passed through." His remains were brought home for burial and lie in West Rutland's Pleasant Street Cemetery.

# NOVEMBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Daylight Savings Ends	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day Hanukkah	29	30



### Percival Wood Clement, 1846-1927

Born in Rutland to Charles and Elizabeth (Wood) Clement, Percival ran four times for the Vermont governorship, finally succeeding on his last try in 1918.

In 1871 he became a partner in his father's marble firm. In the early 1880s he began buying stock in the Rutland Railroad and by the end of the decade had become its president. Under his management the line expanded and linked Rutland with major urban centers.

In 1892 he secured a city charter for Rutland from the Vermont House of Representatives. He was elected mayor of the city in 1897 and re-elected in 1898.

Also in the 1880s he became publisher of the Rutland Herald and used its columns to promote his campaign to repeal Vermont's long-standing prohibition against liquor sales in favor of a local option. His gubernatorial term was notable for his decision not to call a special legislative session to ratify the 20th Amendment granting women's suffrage.

# DECEMBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31				



### **Seneca Milo Dorr, 1820 - 1884**

Seneca Dorr was born in Chatham Center, New York, the youngest son of that town's first physician. He was a lawyer, legislator, businessman, and notably the husband of Julia Caroline Ripley Dorr.

Married in 1847, Seneca and his wife, Julia, spent their first ten years together in Ghent, New York, near Chatham. Here he pursued farming, law and politics while she busied herself with a growing family and her literary career.

In 1857 the couple was planning to relocate to Oregon but first paid a visit of a few months to her family in Center Rutland. They ended up remaining here and after a time built a house on the Otter Creek known as "The Maples."

Seneca became involved in the Ripley family marble business seeking out new quarries. Elected as representative to the state legislature, he later served several terms as senator from Rutland County. Through his efforts, the state educational system was significantly improved.

A devoted family man, he was very supportive of his wife's literary efforts.